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Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" Am I to understand from the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that he does not propose to bifurcate the Tindivanam Taluk Board in view of the question of the abolition of the taluk board itself ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is no question of the bifurcation of the taluk board at present. Pending the introduction of the new Local Boards Act, this matter has been dropped."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" May I ask whether there is any proposal now engaging the attention of Government to abolish the taluk boards altogether ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, that is now engaging the attention of Government. I may also say for my hon. Friend's benefit that the District Board of South Arcot was against the bifurcation of the Tindivanam Taluk Board."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" May I ask him to state whether it is the policy of the Government to defer the bifurcation pending determination of the larger question, namely, the abolition of the taluk boards ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is so, Sir."

Orders of the Ministry from the 1st April to 4th June in connexion with the Salem District Board President's selection.

* 766 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House the several orders passed by the Ministry in connexion with the Salem District Board President's election from the 1st of April to the 4th of June 1927 ?

A.—The Government are not prepared to place the orders on the subject on the table of the House.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister whether there is anything confidential in these orders and why the Government are not prepared to place the orders on the table of the House."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As the answer says, the Government are not prepared to place the orders on the subject on the table of the House."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" That is exactly the reason, Sir, why I want an answer from my friend if he is willing to answer the question. My question is whether there is anything confidential in those orders relating to the election of the President of the Salem District Board which is certainly a matter of public importants which makes the Government unwilling to place them on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There are some confidential matters, and, as I have said before, I am not prepared to place them on the table."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to place at least those orders which are not confidential on the table ? "

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Minister did not make any distinction between the two portions, confidential and non-confidential. He refuses to place the whole matter on the table."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" What he said, Sir, was that some orders are confidential."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" But he refused to place all the orders on the table."

Nominations of members to honorary positions in the gift of Government.

* 767 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state the names of the members of the Legislative Council who have been nominated since 4th December 1926 to memberships of local bodies, including taluk boards, district and municipal councils and to District Educational Councils, District Secondary Boards and any other honorary positions which it lay in the power of the Government to confer ?

A.—A list [a] furnishing the information available is laid on the table. Appointments of members of taluk boards are ordinarily made by the presidents of district boards. The taluk board appointments in the list were made under section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the list given in the appendix may I ask the hon. Minister why as many as 33 of the places on these boards by nomination of the Government have gone to hon. Members of this House, whether it is because in the opinion of the Government, no other competent person could be had in those places for these offices, and whether the Government have considered that such a free distribution of partonage among Members of this Council may be interpreted by the public as acting under the Walpolean maxim ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am not quite aware of Walpole and his methods, but if my hon. Friend chooses to put that interpretation on it, he is welcome to do it. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am very glad for that answer. May I then ask him whether in his own opinion these nominations were capable of that interpretation, that some of these jobs were given to these people in order to please the Members of the House ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is certainly not my interpretation, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Then, Sir, may I ask for an answer to my question, instead of looking round for admiration for his answer to the question, whether, in his opinion, there are not other men equally competent to fill these places, and what are the reasons on which he based his conclusion that these men, 33 of them, were the only best men in the various localities, for these jobs ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Looking round for admiration is not my weakness; I think it is the weakness of my hon. Friend. "

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 393-394 infra.